

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9033

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, EINV

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN POSITION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS PROPOSAL

REF: (A) GENEVA 6767; (B) LAGOS 8730; (C) LAGOS 9730;
(D) USUN 3550

1. THE NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE MOST ACTIVELY INVOLVED
IN THE CONSIDERATION OF OUR INITIATIVE ON ILLICIT PAY-
MENTS AT THE 61ST ECOSOC WAS EJOH ABUAH (FIRST SECRETARY,
NIGERIAN MISSION TO THE U.N.). ALTHOUGH ABUAH DID NOT
TAKE POSITIONS HOSTILE TO OUR RESOLUTION IN PLENARY MEETINGS, WE
WERE INFORMED BY SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES THAT HE WAS ONE OF
THE MOST DIFFICULT OBSTRUCTIONISTS DURING THE INITIAL G-77
CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSAL. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CON-
TACTS WITH ABUAH AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM THE G-77 MEETINGS,
HE OBJECTED TO OUR PROPOSAL AS POSSIBLY DETRACTING FROM
THE WORK ON A GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND LOBBIED INTEN-
SIVELY TO ENCOMPASS BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL
OFFICIALS WITHIN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE. WE HAD REPEATED
CONVERSATIONS WITH ABUAH AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WERE
VIRTUALLY ABLE TO ISOLATE HIM. ABUAH PLAYED NO ROLE WHAT-
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EVER IN THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FINAL TEXT. (THE

BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS THE PRINCIPAL G-77 NEGOTIATOR LATER INFORMED US THAT HE HAD STRUCK A DEAL WITH ABUAH THAT ABUAH WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN RETURN FOR BRAZIL'S NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NIGERIAN RESOLUTION DEALING WITH REGIONAL CO-OPERATION. IT IS ALSO PROBABLY THAT OUR APPROACH TO THE NIGERIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HARRIMAN, DRAWING ON THE EXCELLENT RAPPORT ESTABLISHED DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECLARATION OF ABIDJAN, CONTRIBUTED TO THE NIGERIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS ISSUE.)

2. DURING FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSAL IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ABUAH MADE TWO BRIEF STATEMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE THE SUMMARY RECORDS COVERING THESE STATEMENTS. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMAL NOTES, ABUAH MADE A VERY CAUTIOUS STATEMENT FOLLOWING OUR FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. RESOLUTION INDICATING THAT WHILE WE HAD REVISED THE TEXT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION SOME G-77 VIEWS, SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION STILL REMAINED. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THE NEGOTIATED TEXT WAS APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ABUAH MADE A SHORT STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE FINAL TEXT BUT EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE ELABORATION OF A FINAL CODE OF CONDUCT. THE NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE MADE NO STATEMENT WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS FINALLY APPROVED IN PLENARY.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE FNG DELEGATION HAD CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AT THE 61ST ECOSOC. ABUAH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SMARTING FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER AT THE VANCOUVER HABITAT CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE FARED RATHER BADLY. IN ADDITION, ABUAH ASPIRES TO A LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN THE RADICAL ELEMENT OF THE G-77, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ISSUE OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY, SOUTH AFRICA, AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. BEING MINDFUL OF THIS POSSIBILITY, WE HAVE GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO CULTIVATING ABUAH AND AT LEAST ATTEMPTING TO NEUTRALIZE HIM WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTANT ISSUES WHERE HIS INDIVIDUAL VIEWS COULD CREATE DIFFICULTY.

4. MISSION RECOGNIZES THAT THE ABOVE IS NOT DIRECTLY RES-
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PONSIVE TO REQUEST IN REFTEL D, SINCE WE CANNOT FURNISH EXCERPTS. AS INDICATED, WE DO NOT HAVE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE TWO BRIEF NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD EVEN IN THE SUMMARY FORM THAT WILL EVENTUALLY BE AVAILABLE. BUT WE HOPE THE INFORMATION IN THIS TELEGRAM WILL BE HELPFUL TO EMBASSY LAGOS IN DECIDING HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO OBEBE'S REQUEST. END COMMENT.
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